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News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2007 Montana and U.S. Potato Production
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Montana's 2007 potato production totaled 3,696,000 cwt, 5 percent above 2006, and 7 percent above the 2005 production, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Producers harvested 11,200 acres, up 7 percent from 2006 and 6 percent above 2005. Potato yields averaged 330 cwt per acre in 2007, compared with 335 cwt in 2006 and 325 cwt in 2005.

Value of production for the 2007 crop was \$36.4 million, up 15 percent from 2006. The average price was \$9.85 per cwt, an increase of \$0.85 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 2007 potato crop totaled \$32.5 million, which is 12 percent above last year. Producers sold 3,297,000 cwt from the 2007 crop compared with 3,208,000 cwt the previous year.

U.S. potato production in 2007 is revised to 447 million cwt, down 1 percent from the estimate in the January Crop Production 2007 Summary but 1 percent above the 2006 crop. Harvested area, at 1.13 million acres, increased 1 percent from 2006. The average yield of 396 cwt per acre is a record high, up 3 cwt from the previous record set in 2006.

Starting in 2007, Florida's winter potato production was combined with their spring potatoes. Therefore, winter potatoes refer to only California in 2007. Winter potato production in 2007 is 2.47 million cwt, down 45 percent from 2006. Harvested area, at 11,500 acres, is 35 percent below 2006. The average yield for winter potatoes is 215 cwt per acre, down 42 cwt from 2006. Spring potato final production for 2007 is 19.8 million cwt, slightly above the previous year. Harvested acres, at 70,200 acres, increased 4 percent from 2006. The average yield for spring potatoes of 282 cwt per acre is down 11 cwt from 2006. Summer potato production is 17.0 million cwt for 2007, 6 percent lower than 2006. Harvested area, at 51,200 acres, is down 5 percent from 2006. The average yield of 332 cwt per acre is down 5 cwt from 2006. Fall potato production is finalized at 408 million cwt for 2007, 2 percent above the 2006 crop. Area harvested in 2007 is 996,800 acres, up 1 percent from the previous year. The average yield, at 409 cwt per acre, is a record high, 3 cwt above the previous record high set in 2006.

The value of all potatoes sold in 2007, at \$3.11 billion, increased 5 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$7.51 per cwt, is up \$0.21 from 2006. The quantity of potatoes sold from the 2007 crop totaled 414 million cwt, up 2 percent from 2006. Sales account for 93 percent of 2007 production, up slightly from the previous year.

Processors used 278 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2007 crop, up 4 percent from 2006. Table stock sales totaled 112 million cwt, 2 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.3 million cwt are down 6 percent from 2006. Sales for livestock feed, at 1.23 million cwt, decreased 26 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 53.6 million cwt in 2007, down 18 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 168 million cwt of raw potatoes, which increased 12 percent from 2006. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 49.5 million cwt, 2 percent above 2006. Canning use, at 3.34 million cwt, is up 16 percent from the previous year. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 4.08 million cwt of potatoes, about 3 times more than in 2006.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 29.1 million cwt for 2007, 3 percent below 2006. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.12 million cwt, 9 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 2.99 million cwt for seed on their own farms, 15 percent lower than a year earlier.

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